GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:197
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
RESEARCH ON TRANSGENIC CROPS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has since completed its research on the transgenic crops;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the date by which the research work is likely to be completed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) The research on transgenic crops is of a continuous nature. A few institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research are involved in the development of transgenic crops mainly using Bt genes for insect resistance.

(b) Beside cotton, the transgenics having resistance to insect pests in rice, tomato, brinjal etc. are undergoing limited field tests.

(c) The research work on development of transgenics in different crops for different purposes is of a continuous nature. In cotton, 3 hybrids are already recommended for cultivation. In other crops research is at different stages.

After transformation and development of transgenics, the biosafety and toxicology studies are conducted under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, which is the nodal department for biotechnology/ transgenics. The final release of transgenics is approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests after their effective evaluation.